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Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 22 June 2017

35/22. Realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the human right of everyone to education, which is enshrined in, inter alia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Recalling all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions, in particular resolution 32/20 of 1 July 2016,

Recognizing that the full realization of the right to education for all is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development, and in this regard welcoming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] including its Sustainable Development Goal 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, underlining the commitment therein to eliminate gender disparities in education, and Goal 5 on achieving gender equality, and empowering all women and girls,

Recalling the need to ensure that all children enjoy the right to education and are ensured equal access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education, the need to eliminate gender disparities in education by 2030, and the need to build and upgrade education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive, accessible and effective learning environments for all,

[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Recalling also the Incheon Declaration: Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all, adopted at the World Education Forum 2015, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 19 to 22 May 2015,

Noting with appreciation the work carried out by all relevant organs, bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations system within their respective mandates, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the United Nations Population Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the efforts of organizations and civil society to promote girls' full and equal enjoyment of the right to education,

Deeply concerned that humanitarian crises and armed conflicts are depriving children of access to education, especially girls, who are two and a half times more likely to be out of school than boys in these settings,

Strongly condemning attacks on and abductions of girls because they attend or wish to attend school, deploring all attacks, including terrorist attacks, on educational institutions as such, their students and staff, and recognizing the negative impact that such attacks have on the progressive realization of the right to education, in particular of girls, while recognizing the obligations of States to provide an enabling and secure environment to ensure the safety of schools,

Reaffirming the equal right of every child to education without discrimination of any kind, and noting the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination often faced by girls,

Stressing the importance of the contribution of parliamentarians, national human rights institutions and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl,

Recognizing that gender stereotypes about the role of women and girls underpin the obstacles to girls' equal enjoyment of quality education, and that stereotypes are also perpetuated in school curricula and materials,

Determined to give full effect to the right to education and to guarantee that this right is recognized and exercised without discrimination of any kind,

Recognizing that education is a multiplier right that empowers women and girls to claim their human rights, including the right to participate in public life, as well as economic, social and cultural life, and to participate fully in the making of decisions that shape society,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 32/20;[2]

2. *Urges* all States:

(*a*) To strengthen and intensify their efforts to take deliberate, concrete and targeted steps to fully realize the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl, to eliminate legal, administrative, financial, structural, social and cultural barriers that hinder girls' equal enjoyment of the right to education, and to appropriately ensure non-discrimination in the admission of girls and boys at all levels of education, particularly when designing policy measures, programmes and resource allocations;

[2] A/HRC/35/11.

(*b*) To strengthen and intensify their efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of school-related violence against girls, and to hold those responsible for those acts accountable;

(*c*) To review, repeal and eliminate, as appropriate, laws, policies and practices that can negatively affect the right to education of every girl, including discriminatory laws, policies, practices, customs, traditions or religious considerations, financial barriers, violence, including sexual violence in the school environment, the worst forms of child labour, and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, gender stereotypes, child, early and forced marriage and early pregnancy;

(*d*) To eliminate gender stereotypes from all educational processes, practices and teaching materials, including through periodic review and revision of school curricula, textbooks, programmes and teaching methods, and the inclusion of human rights education, including on gender equality and non-discrimination, as part of the mandatory school curriculum, and to ensure that girls are encouraged to freely choose non-traditional fields of study;

(*e*) To provide adequate access to water and safe, separate and quality sanitation facilities in schools, and to promote appropriate hygiene behaviour, since school water supply and sanitation are essential elements of basic education;

3. *Calls upon* States to place enhanced emphasis on quality education for girls, including catch-up, non-formal and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, and special initiatives for keeping girls in school through post-primary education, and to promote access to skills and entrepreneurship training for girls;

4. *Encourages* States to support girls' access to skills development by expanding the scope of education and training opportunities ranging from basic digital fluency to advanced technical skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and in information and communications technology;

5. *Also encourages* States to increase investments and international cooperation to provide equal opportunity for all girls to complete free, equitable, inclusive and quality early childhood, primary and secondary education, including by scaling up and strengthening national, regional and international initiatives, as appropriate, such as the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, the Out-of-School Children Initiative, the Global Partnership for Education and the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, and to explore additional innovative mechanisms based on models combining public and private resources while ensuring that all education providers are qualified and adequately trained and give due respect to human rights, including the right to education;

6. *Encourages* international cooperation to complement the efforts of States in matters relating to education, in particular with a view to effectively eliminating all forms of discrimination and stereotypes in education, and supports the efforts of the United Nations system in this regard;

7. *Reaffirms* the importance of continuing to develop and enhance standards and methodologies at the national, regional and international levels to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics and data on access to education, in particular access to universal primary education; the gender gap in youth literacy; the number of out-of-school children, and others;

8. *Urges* States to support the efforts of developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to progressively realize the right to education, in particular ensuring the right to education of every girl through allocating appropriate resources, including financial and technical resources, in support of country-led national education plans;

9. *Reaffirms* the importance of enhancing the dialogue between the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and other partners that pursue the goals of girls' education with a view to promoting further the right to education of girls in the operational activities of the United Nations system;

10. *Encourages* the High Commissioner and relevant special procedure mandate holders to give the required attention to realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl in carrying out their mandates and in their reporting, and to work collectively towards its realization through practical and efficient steps;

11. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

36th meeting
22 June 2017

[Adopted without a vote.]